Meeting of National Board for Wildlife

3930. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife was held on 17th March, 2005 in Delhi;

(b) if so, what was the agenda of this meeting;

(c) whether the sad state of some sanctuaries like Papukinda was reviewed;

(e) whether it is a fact that burning problems affecting wildlife were not listed for the meeting; and

(d) the steps proposed to create a transparent role for the functioning of the National Wildlife Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main issue discussed during the meeting are given in the Statement. (See below)

(c)and(d>No,Sir.

(e) The National Board for Wildlife is a multi-disciplinary body composed of policy makers, Govt, functionaries, representatives from Non-Government Organisation and eminent persons, with the Prime Minister as Chairperson and Minister of Environment and Forests as Vice Chairperson. The Board Functions as per Section 5C of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Statement

Agenda of the Meeting of the National Board for Wildlife

SI. No.	Issues discussed
1.	Setting up of Task Force for Trans-boundary Protected Areas
2.	Preventing Gyps vulture from Extinction
3.	Export of captive bred birds of exotic species

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4.	Eco-fragile/Eco-sensitive Zones around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries
5.	Revision of Species in the Schedules of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972
6.	Guidelines for permission for scientific research in Protected Areas.
7.	Rationalization of the boundaries of National Parks and Sanctuaries
8.	Nominations of members to the Standing Committee of National Board for Wildlife on a rotational basis
9.	Decline in Tiger Population in India as reported in media
10.	Problems of Wildlife related to drying of wetlands
11.	Abolition of the practice of gifting animals by Head of the Government/ Head of the State
12.	Expedite the setting up of National Wildlife Crime Bureau in view of actions by CITES
13.	Creation of separate Department of Forests & Wildlife

Drive for Afforestation

† 3931. SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to launch any drive for afforestation and to check the shrinking percentage of forest cover;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what efforts are being made to entrust the work of plantation of trees to the Panchayati Raj institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has launched the National Afforestation Programme for undertaking afforestation activities through a two-tier

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.